

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SA
SUBJECT: SAG SENDS GROUP OF ARTICULATE CITIZENS TO US TO
EXPLAIN ITS VIEWS

1. DR. ABDULRAHMAN ZAMIL, DEAN OF GENERAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS CALLED ON CONGEN TO EXPLAIN THAT HE WILL BE DEPARTING SAUDI ARABIA THIS WEEK ON AN EXTENDED TOUR OF US. HE WILL BE VISITING THE US IN COMPANY OF SEVERAL OTHER SAUDI PROFESSIONALS (WHO MAY OR MAY NOT ALWAYS BE TRAVELLING TOGETHER) IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY TO EXPLAIN SAG (AND ARAB) VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS AND JUDGE THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN US AS THEY DID 18-MONTHS AGO WHEN SEVERAL IN THIS YEAR'S GROUP TOURED US ON SIMILAR MISSION. VISITORS PLAN TO TALK WITH JOURNALISTS, VISIT UNIVERSITIES, SPEAK BEFORE FORUMS, AND CALL ON APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS WHO INFLUENCE US POLICY AND THINKING ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS.

2. FOLLOWING IS INCOMPLETE LIST OF THOSE MAKING SPEAKING TOUR OF US:

A. DR. FARUQ AKHDAR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING

B. ADD AS-SADHAN, MEMBER OF ROYAL CABINET

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C. DR. ABDULRAHMAN ZAMIL, DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF PETROLUUM AND MINERALS

D. YUSUF ALIRIZA, DIRECTOR, SAUDI COMPANY FOR BASIC INDUSTRIES

E. SA'UD ASH-SHAWWAF, US-EDUCATED LAWYER

F. DR. 'ABDUL ABD AL-FATTAH NAZER, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF RIYADH

3. WHEN ZAMIL ASKED FOR NAME OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS HE COULD CALL IN WASHINGTON, HE WAS GIVEN NAME OF SAUDI ARABIA COUNTRY OFFICER CHARLES CECIL AND, IF HE WAS UNAVAILABLE, CECIL'S ALTERNATE, FRED GERLACH.

4. ZAMIL EXPLAINED TO CONGEN THAT TRIP BEING MADE AT BEHEST OF CROWN PRINCE FAHD (WHICH WAS CONFIRMED LATER BY DR. AKHDAR TO VISITING WALL STREET JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT RAY VICKER). IN ADDITION TO ASKING GROUP TO EXPLAIN SAG POSITION OF FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, FAHD HAS ASKED THEM TO REPORT BACK TO HIM ON DEVELOPMENTS AND ATTITUDES FOUND IN US. HE WISHES THEIR VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN US IN PREPARATION FOR HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO US.

5. COMMENT: GROUP, NOW TRAVELLING TO US, IS, FOR MOST PART, UNUSUALLY ARTICULATE AND WELL-VERSED IN THEIR SUBJECT. MOST ARE US TRAINED, KNOW HOW TO HANDLE US IDIOM, AND CAN HOLD THEIR OWN IN GIVE- AND-TAKE SESSIONS. DR AKHDAR, WE RECALLED APPEARED ON MANY US TV TALK SHOWS AT TIME OF PREVIOUS VISIT AND WAS EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR HIS COUNTRY. ZAMIL, WHO HAS BEEN BONING UP ON NAMES OF US NEWSMEN WHO WRITE ON MIDDLE-EAST AFFAIRS SO THAT HE MAY MEET WITH THEM, FELT, FOLLOWING HIS LAST TRIP, THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FAVORABLE CHANGE IN US PUBLIC OPINION VIS-A-VIS THE ARABS. HE WILL BE LOOKING FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT ON THIS TRIP. BUSHNELL

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